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Office Action Dated April 21, 2006

IN THE CLAIMS

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Claims 1 and 9 are amended.

Claims 5 and 6 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 10-13 are added.

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for testing peritoneal function in order to evaluate a condition of a peritoneal dialysis patient, comprising the steps of:

repeatedly performing fluid infusion and fluid drain of a predetermined amount of peritoneal dialysis fluid in alternation for peritoneal dialysis fluids having different osmotic pressures;

analyzing the drain fluid in order to assess an amount of the peritoneal dialysis fluid that is retained within the abdominal cavity of a patient, and a concentration of monitored solutes in the peritoneal dialysis fluid;

performing a peritoneal equilibrium test; and

performing a blood test in order to assess a change in condition in the blood due to performing fluid infusion and fluid drain;

wherein the fluid infusion and the fluid drain is performed at least three times for each dialysis fluid of respective osmotic pressure, a dwell time from when the dialysis fluid is infused until when the dialysis fluid is drained being set to be different each time when using dialysis fluid having the same osmotic pressure.

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the step of performing the blood test is executed only once; and

the peritoneal equilibrium test is performed last of all the steps, and the blood test is performed immediately before the peritoneal equilibrium test, or is performed during the peritoneal equilibrium test.

2. (CANCELED)

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method for testing peritoneal function according to claim 1,

wherein the monitored solutes for assessing peritoneal function are total protein, albumin, glucose, creatinine, urea, sodium, and chlorine.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method for testing peritoneal function according to claim 3, wherein the albumin concentration of the drain fluid is extrapolated based on the total protein concentration of the drain fluid.

5-6. (CANCELED)

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method for testing peritoneal function according to claim 1,

wherein the peritoneal dialysis fluid whose osmotic pressure is relatively higher than the other peritoneal dialysis fluid is infused last in the step of repeatedly performing fluid

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infusion and fluid drain of a predetermined amount of peritoneal dialysis fluid in alternation for peritoneal dialysis fluids having different osmotic pressures.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method for testing peritoneal function according to claim 1,

wherein the peritoneal dialysis fluid whose osmotic pressure is relatively higher than the other peritoneal dialysis fluid is infused first in the step of repeatedly performing fluid infusion and fluid drain of a predetermined amount of peritoneal dialysis fluid in alternation for peritoneal dialysis fluids having different osmotic pressures.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method for testing peritoneal function in order to evaluate a condition of a peritoneal dialysis patient, comprising the steps of:

repeatedly performing fluid infusion and fluid drain of a predetermined amount of peritoneal dialysis fluid in alternation for peritoneal dialysis fluids having different osmotic pressures;

analyzing the drain fluid in order to assess an amount of the peritoneal dialysis fluid that is retained within the abdominal cavity of a patient, and a concentration of monitored solutes in the peritoneal dialysis fluid;

performing a peritoneal equilibrium test;

performing a blood test in order to assess a change in condition in the blood due to performing fluid infusion and fluid drain;

wherein the fluid infusion and the fluid drain is performed at least three times for each dialysis fluid of respective osmotic pressure, a dwell time from when the dialysis fluid is

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infused until when the dialysis fluid is drained being set to be different each time when using dialysis fluid having the same osmotic pressure.

the step of performing the blood test is executed only once; and

the blood test is performed last of all steps, and the peritoneal equilibrium test is performed immediately before the blood test.

10. (NEW) The method for testing peritoneal function according to claim 9,
wherein the monitored solutes for assessing peritoneal function are total protein, albumin, glucose, creatinine, urea, sodium and chlorine.
11. (NEW) The method for testing peritoneal function according to claim 10,
wherein the albumin concentration of the drain fluid is extrapolated based on the total protein concentration of the drain fluid.
12. (NEW) The method for testing peritoneal function according to claim 9,
wherein the peritoneal dialysis fluid whose osmotic pressure is relatively higher than the other peritoneal dialysis fluid is infused last in the step of repeatedly performing fluid infusion and fluid drain of a predetermined amount of peritoneal dialysis fluid in alternation for peritoneal dialysis fluid having different osmotic pressures.
13. (NEW) The method for testing peritoneal function according to claim 9,
wherein the peritoneal dialysis fluid whose osmotic pressure is relatively higher than the other peritoneal dialysis fluid is infused first in the step of repeatedly performing fluid

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infusion and fluid drain of a predetermined amount of peritoneal dialysis fluid in alternation
for peritoneal dialysis fluids having different osmotic pressures.